

TWO NOVELS AND A WAR BOOK BY LOCAL AUTHORS—BOOKS FOR OLD AND YOUNG

MAJOR BIDDLE DESCRIBES THE WAY OF THE EAGLE

Delightful Book on Flying in France Written by a Well-Known Citizen of Philadelphia

The literature of aviation is already extensive, but the delightful volume of Major Charles J. Biddle, of this city and Andalusin, takes a very high place in it. It is just what the civilian reader wants, for it is simple, and carefully explains all the details of air fighting that the layman is curious about. It was originally written in the form of letters to the author's family, and the informality, modesty and unconscious charm of the narrative lends it peculiar vividness.

The last thing that any genuine flier desires is to be brooded upon by a "knights of the air." We have too great a regard for the author of this admirable book to gush over him. The particular value of the book is in its perfectly candid account of an aviator's training, particularly because Major Biddle was trained with the French, and imbibed from them something of the exacting caution which is the hallmark of the most successful fighter, who does not care to take foolish risks unless they are justified by the emergency. He served with the famous Storks, and had the invaluable opportunity of watching the methods of Guyennere, Bonck, Nungesser and other French aces before himself becoming an American ace.

Major Biddle was an accomplished duck shooter in the old days before the war, and it is interesting to note how often he finds the experiences of that sport useful in his pursuit of the German birds of prey. He says:

Aviation de chasse resembles in many respects other kinds of hunting; for instance, the pursuit of the feathered duck. I have noticed that successful Hun hunters often use their success to the same qualities which go to make a successful duck hunter, that is, patience and knowing where the birds rise, so to speak.

And in one of the most striking of the many passages where his experiences are described with color and imagination he likens a stricken enemy plane to a wounded bird:

"He began to climb until he was at such a steep angle that the motor could not pull the machine up any further and it seemed to hang almost stationary for a few seconds. You have seen a duck when it is mortally shot climb straight up for a little, flutter a second or so and then fold its wings and fall. This loche reminded me for all the world of such a bird. He finally slipped sideways on one wing and then plunged vertically on his nose, leaving a long trail of white smoke behind him. Major Biddle was decorated with the

THE BATTLE OF INK

Counter Propaganda Used by the A. E. F.

Captain Heber Blankenhorn, U. S. A., was detailed to the A. E. F. to direct American propaganda designed to counteract the insidious and menacing methods employed by the German high command and to lay down a verbal barrage in counter-attack to sap the enemy morale. In "The Battle of Ink," Blankenhorn gives an interesting account of the purposes and methods of himself and his associates. One would have preferred a systematic narrative of these endeavors and a formal analysis of ends and means instead of the informal review of somewhat sketchy letters written home to his wife. Adoption of the method he has employed simply means that the substance of the propaganda campaign, in which readers will be highly interested, is enveloped with a very large proportion of his personal experiences in both London and at headquarters in France, together with his personal reactions to various phases of the war.

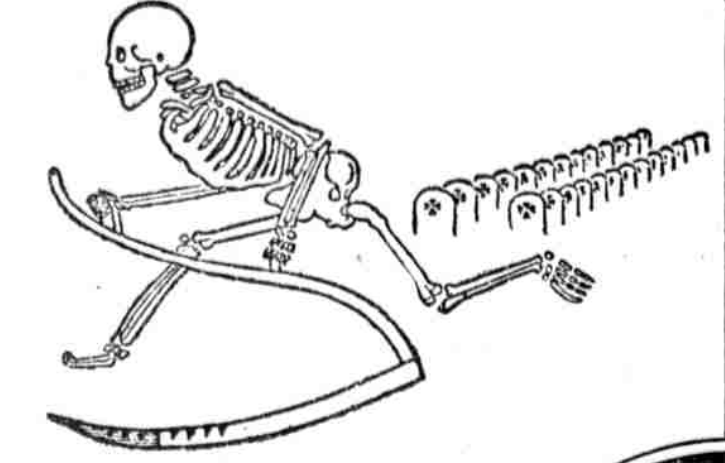
However, this extraneous material is not uninteresting, for Captain Blankenhorn is an acute observer and practiced writer, a skilled newspaper man, one would say, from an intimate knowledge of the fact that the printing press was a military weapon as well as the machine gun on the western front. This book tells something of the part played by ink and type. President Wilson's various notes and addresses furnished the most significant material for the propaganda for the American anti-propaganda.

ADVENTURES IN PROPAGANDA. By Captain Heber Blankenhorn. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. \$1.50.

AT THE FREE LIBRARY

- Books added to the Free Library, this month and during the month of June, 1919.
Abraham, Herbert—'Asaphs and Allied Substance.'
Anderson, W. C.—'Dictionary of Law.'
Barr, W. M.—'Industrial Engineering.'
Book, W. S.—'Theory of Organic Liquid Fuel.'
Cald, R. C.—'Social Work.'
Campbell, Andrew—'Petroleum Refining.'
Chestnut, C. A.—'Alabama, Past and Present.'
Chesterton, Gail—'History of the United States.'
Collins, D.—'Drafting Book, Standard.'
Duchin, Joseph—'Savoy and the Nation.'
Eaton, M. E.—'The People of Me.'
Fairbold, H. P.—'Elementary Reading.'
Fuentes, Ventura—'Manual of Reasoning.'
Gardner, E. E.—'Modern English Grammar.'
Gardner, E. E.—'Western Hemisphere.'
Gardner, E. E.—'The World of Tomorrow.'
Graham, James—'Spanish Commercial Practice Connected with the Export and Import Trade.'
Graves, L. C.—'New Grand Army of the Republic.'
Haines, H. S.—'Efficient Railway Operation.'
Hall, Bolton—'Three Acres and Liberty.'
Hayden, E. H.—'Manual of the Rule of the Road of Sea.'
Hazen, Allen—'Motor Hates for Water Works.'
Hendrick, Ellwood—'Opportunities in Chemistry.'
Herrington, C. F.—'Powdered Coal as a Fuel.'
Hillhouse, P. A.—'Ship Stability and Trim.'
Hughes, M. B.—'Every Woman's Canning Book.'
Jackson, D. C.—'Elementary Book on Electricity and Magnetism.'
Ketchy, C. E.—'Doctrine of the Great Pyramid.'
Kempner, E. W.—'Modern Currency Reform.'
Latham, R. B.—'Chemistry of Materials.'
Loverly, J. L.—'Convention and Revolt in World History.'
Moore, J. T. M.—'American Business in World History.'
Pearson, Sir Arthur—'Victory of Blindness.'
Robinson, P. D.—'Aural Harmony.'
Robinson, P. D.—'Abraham Lincoln as a Statesman.'
Rodriguez, Gaston—'People of Action.'
Rosen, E. J.—'The Doctrine of the Great Pyramid.'
Stanley, F. A.—'English Fairy Tales.'
Sullivan, J. A.—'American Mechanic.'
Swain, C. H.—'My Company.'
Tamm, A. G.—'Principles of Government.'
Waterman, E.—'Self-Instruction Course in Writing.'
Walter, E.—'Modern Pilot.'

PHILADELPHIA ACE, WHO FLEW WITH WAR EAGLES OF BATTLEFRONT



"DEATH THE GREAT REAPER" IN SIGNS OF 13th AERO SQUADRON A.E.F.

Nicks in the blade of the scythe indicate individual pilot's victories; gravestones show combined victories of squadron up to October 22, 1918, when the author left it.

THACKERAY TOUCH IN MEARN'S BOOK

"The Vinegar Saint" Rich in Playful Commentary and Sophisticated Tolerance

It isn't every reader who will like "The Vinegar Saint," by Hughes Mearns. But the promotion of the reading public which is sure to be rewarded with delight if it adventures into the book will like it very much. That part of the reading public which does on Robert W. Chambers and Harold Bell Wright will not share very far into the pages of "The Vinegar Saint," but it will be a rare treat to that part which delights in the work of Thackeray—and perhaps reads him now and then—and which gladly elevated William De Morgan into one of the six best sellers because he echoed the historical and the large sophisticated tolerance that belong to the immortal creator of the immortal Becky Sharp, Colonel Newcome, the Marquis of Steyne and the Pendennis.

SEX KNOWLEDGE THEME OF STORY

"A Knight of Today" Distinguishes Between Innocence and Ignorance

In "A Knight of Today," Elsie Howard-Smith does more successfully for the general reader, because less starkly and less grimly in realism, what Cosmo Hamilton attempted in his propaganda drama, "The Blindness of Virtue." Both Mrs. Howard-Smith's novel and Mr. Hamilton's play perhaps base back on Frank Wedekind's "Fruelings-schwaben," but both are free from the romantic glamourousness with which Wedekind invested his play, and which is apparent even in the softened translation by Francis J. Ziegler, under the title of "The Awakening of Spring." Both, too, are free from the psychopathic temperament of Wedekind's drama, and Mrs. Howard-Smith's work, in addition, is singularly free from both erotic and neurotic quality.

How They Caught a Spy

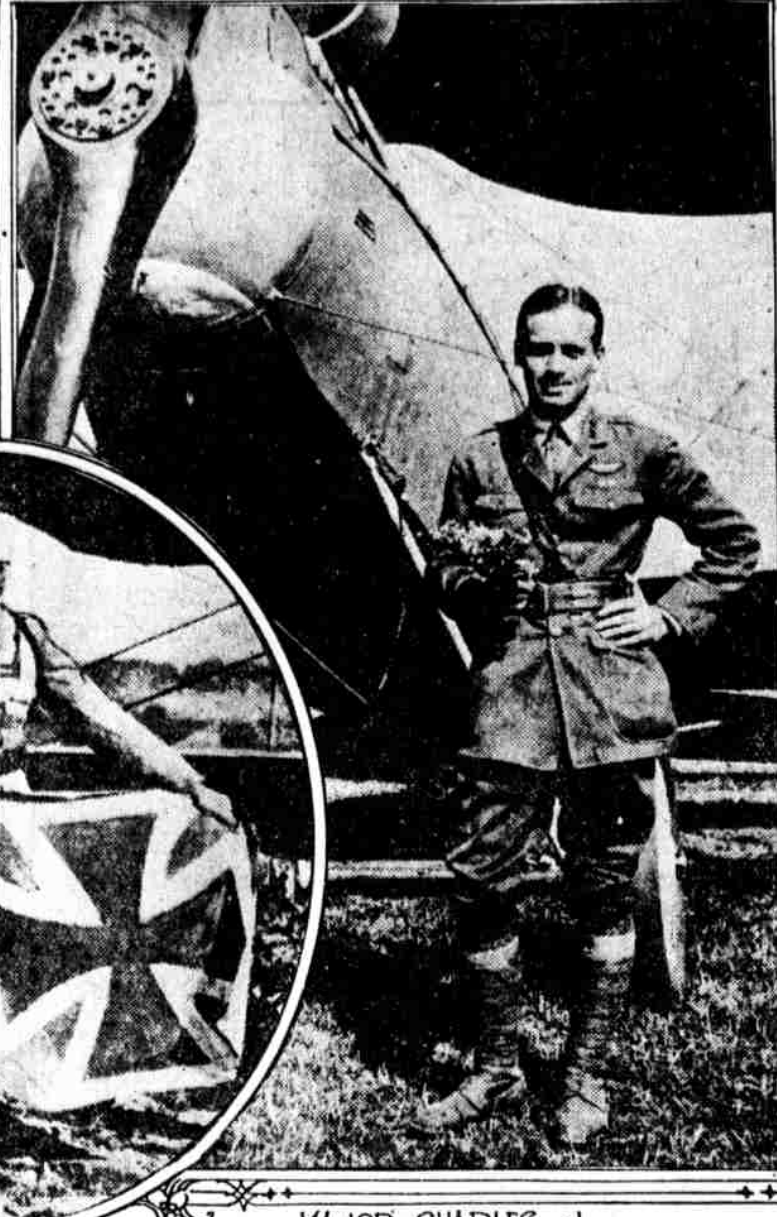
No boy or girl who likes stories of adventure mingled with patriotic effort should fail to read "Rainbow Island," by Elma A. Brown. It tells about a boy who goes to catch a spy on the Maine coast and his surprise and astonishment when he discovered that the man who he thought was the spy was once engaged in the same kind of efforts as he, and that the real spy was some one entirely different. Miss Brown's stories are much better than the ordinary run of juvenile fiction, and this one is no exception.

Banners

Bahette Deutsch, one of the younger poets, has produced a volume of verse of great promise. It is not the mother-tongue and heaven rhyme, which has a wide appeal. It is, rather, the sophisticated, intellectual verse, the beauty and significance of which are appreciated only by a highly specialized class. Miss Deutsch has a rich imagination, and some of her lines are exquisitely suggestive and alluring. When read in the mood to which they are addressed they are irresistible.

Trotsky's Own Philosophy

"Your Revolution," by Leon Trotsky, exhibits some of the ground material out of which Bolshevism has been developed. It displays the foundation of the philosophy which animates the Russian revolution. Many of the passages run decidedly counter to the program and policies defined by Trotsky in this collection of some of his writings of the last decade or so. Historical theories simply have failed to control the acquisition of "red" revolution. The book is made up of Trotsky's essays on the working class and international revolution, written between 1914 and 1917. These have been collected and translated by Max Eastman, who contributes a foreword and some interesting biographical notes elucidating the personality of Trotsky. Whatever may be the general view toward Bolshevism, an understanding of it as expounded by its proponents and propagandists is desirable. Such an exposition is found, to a considerable extent, in this volume.



MAJOR CHARLES J. BIDDLE. Illustrations courtesy Charles Scribner's Sons.

DR. SHELDON'S NEW NOVEL

"All the World" Has Both Religious and Sentimental Values

The Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, the clergyman who about two decades ago made a "sensuous sensation" with his religious novel "In His Steps," has written a new piece of fiction underlain by religious elements in "All the World." It is a serious novel, largely concerned with the problems of reconstructing America after the great war. The story itself is interesting with a charming love interest. It is not altogether obscured by the author's discussion of physical and moral rehabilitation, unemployment problems, immigration management and other important topics of the times. The union of the Holy Land are interestingly incorporated.

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JOHN LANE COMPANY Publishers NEW YORK

The first 3 reviews—

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